

CHARLIE BLAKER

BTEC Level 2 in Travel and Tourism



Charlie Blaker studied for a BTEC Level 2 in Travel and Tourism at Exeter College. He now works full time for Tui as a Retail Travel Advisor in Exeter. We spoke to him about his BTEC experience in June 2022.

How do you think studying a BTEC helped get you where you are now?

The BTEC Level 2 in Travel and Tourism helped me to get this job because I could find out about the many different areas of the industry. My teachers had industry experience, so they told me what it was like and what to expect. My manager has told me that I demonstrate knowledge that she would not expect someone new to the job role to have. This is because the BTEC has given me a good overall knowledge of the industry and prepared me for the workplace.

Can you describe your BTEC experience? What was it like?

I enjoyed my BTEC experience. It was high pressure at times but that has prepared me to work in a high-pressure industry. I especially enjoyed the more practical units, Holiday Reps and organising a study visit.

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How is studying a BTEC preparing you for the career you would like to go into?

The BTEC helped me to prepare for my career as a Tui Travel Advisor as I researched different destinations and why they are suitable for meeting different customer needs. I also learned about how different organisations might work together to provide services for tourists. We also planned itineraries which has really helped me in my current role. ►

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What did you like most about taking a BTEC?

I really enjoyed the social side of college, meeting new people and making friends. It was good to have a mixture of exams and coursework. It taught me that I had to be organised as there was a lot of assignments.

Would you recommend taking a BTEC?

Yes, I would recommend a BTEC course as you can choose the course that is specific to the industry you want to work in and learn all about that industry. This means you are more interested in the topics you are learning.

How would you say your confidence has changed since taking a BTEC? Has it made you more of a leader or focused your ambitions?

I was quite confident anyway, but it has taught me to be more professional in certain situations, for example, when giving presentations I have practiced and improved my communication skills.

